

NEW AND ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF UTAH BIRDS

BY WILLIAM H. BEHLE AND ROBERT K. SELANDER

SINCE the appearance of the two check-lists of the birds of Utah (Behle, 1944, and Woodbury, Cottam and Sugden, 1949), some birds new to the state have been noted and several additional records of some of the rarer birds have accumulated. In making these data available, we also wish to correct a few inadvertent errors, oversights, and ambiguities currently in the literature of the ornithology of Utah. All specimens mentioned below are in the University of Utah Museum of Zoology (hereinafter abbreviated U.U.M.Z.). We are indebted to John Bushman, Clifton Greenhalgh, G. Hortin Jensen, Clark Johnson, C. W. Lockerbie, Richard D. Porter, and Aaron Ross for collecting or bringing into the museum several of the important specimens.

Anser albifrons frontalis. White-fronted Goose.—Although there are several records for Utah, they are mostly observations. Two specimens have been taken: female, Bear River Gun Club, mouth Sulphur Creek, 18 miles west Brigham, Boxelder County, September 28, 1928; male, Lake Front Gun Club, 4300 feet, Salt Lake County, October 10, 1948.

Chen rossii. Ross's Goose.—This species is a casual migrant but we are not aware of specimens having been previously reported from the state. A male was taken at the Bear River Refuge, 4300 feet, Boxelder County on October 27, 1949.

Anas rubripes. Common Black Duck.—Two records were cited by Behle (1944:69). Without indication of the basis for their conclusion, Woodbury, *et al.* say that the species is a "casual migrant and winter resident, both native and introduced. Most specimens have been hybrid crosses with mallard." A female shot at Farmington Bay on November 22, 1951, now No. 11890 U.U.M.Z., constitutes another definite record.

Aythya marila nearctica. Greater Scaup Duck.—The Greater Scaup is uncommon as a migrant through the state. There are two specimens in the U.U.M.Z. Both are males, one having been taken at the mouth of Bear River, Boxelder County, October 19, 1932, the other at Farmington Bay Refuge, 4300 feet, 12 miles north Salt Lake City, Davis County, March 27, 1949.

Tringa solitaria solitaria. Solitary Sandpiper.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:13) indicated that the form *T. s. cinnamomea* is a casual summer resident breeding in Uintah and Kane counties, and an uncommon migrant through the state. The two specimens from Kane County that they referred to (U.U.M.Z. 2635 and 2636) are instead Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) in winter plumage.

A record of *Tringa solitaria* possibly breeding in central-western Utah is afforded by a specimen taken at Ibapah, 5200 feet, Tooele County, on July 15, 1950. It was a male with testes 12 mm. long, and was one of a pair. Richard Porter, who collected the specimen, said these two sandpipers would not leave a certain area along an irrigation canal. From these data we infer that they were breeding and thus should be referred to *T. s. solitaria* (see Conover, 1944). The wing of the specimen obtained measures 130 mm. and the culmen, 31.0 mm. The back seems olivaceous and is spotted with white. A white supraloral streak and dark loreal streak extend part way to the eye. The primaries are immaculate.

These two birds from Ibapah and those reported by Twomey (1942:392) from the Uinta Basin of northeastern Utah, which were also probably breeding, seem to be among the southernmost records of breeding birds for the species. According to Conover (*op. cit.*: 541), *T. s. cinnamomea*, the northern race, migrates mostly west of the Mississippi, so should ultimately be found in Utah. The only other two examples we have from Utah, although not breeding birds, seem to be closest to *T. s. solitaria*. One is a male taken at Farmington Bay, 4300 feet, Davis County, May 10, 1950. Its wing measures 132.5 mm. and the culmen 28.0 mm. The other is an unsexed specimen, probably a female, taken July 9, 1937, at a pond in Monument Valley, 5400 feet, two miles southwest of Poncho House, San Juan County, Utah, reported by Woodbury and Russell (1945:48). Its wing measures 140.8 mm. and the culmen 31.1 mm. Another specimen, a male, taken July 14, 1937, at mud flats at Kayenta Reservoir, 5500 feet, Navajo County, Arizona, has a wing measurement of 136.1 mm. and a culmen of 31.2 mm. Its testes were not enlarged.

Erolia alpina pacifica. Red-backed Sandpiper.—In Utah this species is an uncommon but regular migrant, known to occur from May 1 to 26 and August 11 to November 18, according to Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:14). Apparently, this is based principally on sight records. Since few specimens have been collected, it seems desirable to report two specimens in the U.U.M.Z. collection. Both are females: one was taken at the mouth of the Bear River, Boxelder County, May 26, 1932; the other, at Farmington Bay Refuge, 4300 feet, Davis County, May 10, 1950.

Limnodromus griseus. Short-billed Dowitcher.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:13) listed *L. g. griseus* as a "casual but probably regular migrant through the state; available dates are May 20, July 21, August, September 17, 30." It is not indicated whether specimens are the basis for the records. In his revision of the genus, Pitelka (1950:48) listed only a single specimen of *Limnodromus griseus* from Utah which he assigned to the race *L. g. hendersoni*. It is an adult male taken on May 20, 1915, at the mouth of the Bear River. We can report a second record (U.U.M.Z. 8311) of this race, namely an adult female, in almost complete winter plumage, taken on August 17, 1946, also at the Bear River Refuge. It appears that this species is relatively uncommon in Utah, there being but two definite records.

Limnodromus scolopaceus. Long-billed Dowitcher.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:13) stated that *L. griseus scolopaceus* (= *L. scolopaceus*, Pitelka, 1950)¹ is an "abundant migrant through state, concentrating in large flocks mainly in Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake valleys, recorded from March 29 to May 13 and August 13 to November 5, but stragglers as late as December 12." These dates probably are based mainly on sight records and may refer to both species.

An earlier spring date than Woodbury, *et al.*, gave pertains to three examples of *L. scolopaceus* (2 adult males, 1 adult female) taken March 23, 1949, at Deckers Lake, 4300 feet, Salt Lake County. Of these, one male is in complete winter plumage, another shows a few feathers of the nuptial plumage on the breast and scapular region, and the female has feathers of the breeding plumage on the breast, belly, back, and upper wing-coverts.

Micropalama himantopus. Stilt Sandpiper.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:14) listed this species as a casual migrant on the basis of a specimen taken in 1893, labelled merely "Utah," a sight record of several at Bear River Marshes, July 26, 1932, and a specimen (U.U.M.Z. 11889) from Moab, taken in 1936. The latter, however, we find is a skin of the Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).

Columba fasciata fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon.—A male was taken at New Harmony,

5250 feet, Washington County, June 24, 1950. The bird was one of a small flock flying along a stream in a Gambel oak-yellow pine community.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Black-billed Cuckoo.—Heretofore this species was unknown from Utah. An adult female was obtained when it flew into a window at Bountiful, 4400 feet, Davis County, July 9, 1951. The bird was breeding, since it had a brood patch, an enlarged ovary and oviduct, and an egg 12 mm. in diameter in the oviduct. The Black-billed Cuckoo has been reported in eastern Montana (Saunders, 1921:71), eastern Colorado (Ridgway, 1916:39), and Idaho (Arvey, 1947:202).

Chordeiles minor minor. Eastern Nighthawk.—A male Nighthawk, collected May 29, 1942, at the mouth of Ogden Canyon, 4300 feet, Weber County, Utah, is referable to *minor* in both color and size. The specimen is the second record for Utah of this transient subspecies.

Colaptes auratus luteus. Northern Flicker.—The Yellow-shafted Flicker is uncommon in Utah. One flew into a window of a residence in Salt Lake City on April 5, 1950, and was obtained as a specimen. It was an adult male with testes slightly enlarged. Although closer to *C. a. luteus*, the specimen is a hybrid with *C. cafer collaris*. It has the red malar stripe and gray throat and neck of *C. cafer*, but the scarlet nuchal band of *C. auratus*; the lining of the wings and tail, while predominantly yellow, actually is intermediate between the normal colors of the two species.

Twomey (1942:406) stated that he found no indication of hybridization in the 9 specimens of *C. c. collaris* that he took in the Uinta Basin or in several others observed there. A breeding female in the U.U.M.Z. collection, taken at Dry Fork Canyon, 6000 feet, 15 miles north of Vernal, Uintah County, on June 28, 1950, has the outer tail feather on the right side yellow-orange, indicating some hybridization with *C. auratus* in that geographic area. Several other examples of *C. c. collaris* from various parts of the state show indications of hybridization, especially in possession of a light nuchal band.

Progne subis subis. Purple Martin.—Twomey (1942:417) found this species nesting in bird boxes about the town of Vernal and observed pairs in Ashley Creek Canyon and along the Duchesne River. Woodbury, *et al.* (1942:22) indicated that martins breed in colonies in aspens in the mountains of Utah. Actually, few observations have been made of the species in the state, and apparently specimens have not been reported. It is of interest, therefore, that, during the summer of 1950, we discovered two colonies in the Wasatch Mountains. They were fairly common at Payson Lakes, 8300 feet, 12 miles southeast of Payson, Utah County, between July 10 and 13, 1950. The birds frequented boggy areas surrounding the lakes where they nested in cavities in the aspens in association with Violet-green Swallows (*Tachycineta thalassina*), Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), and Red-naped Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*). The martins were feeding young at the time. Fourteen specimens were obtained as follows: 2 second-year females, 1 adult female, 4 males in adult plumage, and 7 males in second-year plumage. All were presumably in breeding condition since their gonads were enlarged (testes 8-15 mm. long). We saw few adult males.

On July 10, 1950, two adult male Purple Martins were collected by Richard Porter in a similar environmental situation at Squaw Flat, Monte Cristo, 8000 feet, Weber County.

Although Ridgway (1877:459) reported Purple Martins as "extremely abundant" among the aspens near Parleys Park (near Snyderville, 7000 feet, Summit County) in 1869, they have not been found there in recent years, despite extensive field work, although, seemingly, the habitat is similar to that at Payson Lakes and Monte Cristo.

Hylocichla guttata guttata. Alaska Hermit Thrush.—Another of the few examples of this casual migrant taken in Utah is an adult male obtained at the Bear River Refuge, 4300 feet, Boxelder County, on October 15, 1950.

Hylocichla guttata slevini. Monterey Hermit Thrush.—Two migrant Hermit Thrushes have recently been identified for us as of this race by A. H. Miller. Both are males, one from one mile west of Farmington Depot, 4350 feet, Davis County, April 27, 1948, the other from along the Surplus Canal, 4300 feet, 5 miles northwest of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, May 9, 1949. In size and color they resemble breeding birds from Atlin, British Columbia. These two examples are similar to three specimens that Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:25) called *H. g. oromela* (as noted on the labels, U.U.M.Z. Nos. 6721, 6722, 4076). The data for these latter three are as follows: male, mouth of Bear River, below Bear River Club, 20 miles west of Brigham, Boxelder County, May 22, 1933; female, Clear Creek (Raft River Mountains), Boxelder County, May 9, 1933; female, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, May 20, 1937.

Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola. Willow Thrush.—Although the early collectors in Utah, notably Ridgway, reported this species as fairly common in the Wasatch Mountain area, no specimens were obtained. Through subsequent years no examples were collected, and, even though some observers occasionally reported the species, we felt that either it did not actually occur in Utah or was much less abundant than in earlier times. On June 14, 1951, we collected a male from a willow thicket along Clear Creek, 5500 feet, Raft River Mountains, 3 miles southwest of Nafton, Boxelder County, Utah. The bird may have been breeding since its testes were 10 mm. long.

Regulus satrapa olivaceus. Western Golden-crowned Kinglet.—This species is not listed for the Uinta Mountains by Twomey (1942:433) although Woodbury (1939:159) reported sight records in that area made by Clarence Cottam. We shot a male at the mouth of Brown Duck Canyon, near Moon Lake, 8500 feet, Duchesne County, on September 2, 1948.

Anthus spinoletta alticola. Rocky Mountain Pipit.—Pipits have long been known to be summer residents in the Uinta Mountains and have been presumed to occur in other high mountains of the state. We recently obtained proof of their presence in the Wasatch and Deep Creek mountains of northern Utah. Six specimens (2 adult males, 1 immature male, 2 adult females, and 1 immature female) were secured on the talus slopes of Devil's Castle Mountain, 10,000 feet, Alta, head of Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, on August 4, 1949. An adult female was obtained by Richard Porter from near the summit of Bald Mountain, 11,000 feet, Deep Creek Mountains, Juab County, June 5, 1950, and a male was taken from the cirque between Mt. Ibapah and Bald Mountain, 11,600 feet, Deep Creek Mountains, July 2, 1950. The latter specimen had testes 8 mm. long. The Deep Creek Mountain specimens represent a considerable extension of range in Utah and, to our knowledge, the first probable breeding record from a mountain range in the Great Basin.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing.—Although this species is considered to be a casual breeder in northern Utah, as well as a sporadic winter resident throughout the state, breeding records authenticated by specimens are few. Specimens in the U.U.M.Z. collection representing probable breeding records are as follows: A pair was collected at Paradise, Cache County, July 24, 1932. Two males and two females were taken May 12-13, 1946, in Cave Lakes Canyon, 5 miles northwest of Kanab, Kane County. They behaved as though paired and about to nest. An adult male in worn plumage, testes

3 mm. long, was taken August 16, 1949, at the Farmington Railroad Station, 4300 feet, Davis County. It was one of three seen in a willow clump.

Vireo solitarius plumbeus. Plumbeous Vireo.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:27) said this form was a summer resident, "mainly of pigmy conifers, possibly in oak brush or stream-side vegetation; breeding not known." Twomey (1942:436) collected four breeding specimens in the Uinta Mountains and regarded it as "a sparsely distributed summer resident." We secured three breeding specimens from the Uinta Mountains on June 27-29, 1950, at Dry Fork Canyon, 6000 feet, 15 miles north of Vernal. These corroborate the breeding status of the Plumbeous Vireo in Utah because the two males which we collected had enlarged testes and the female had a brood patch.

As to the habitat preference, we have found these birds occurring in summer not so much in the juniper-piñon pine or oak belt associations as in a canyon bottom habitat of willows, cottonwoods, and associated vegetation. Twomey found them along the water-courses of the Uinta Basin and stated (*loc. cit.*) that "it nests only in very restricted areas in the lower valleys where it can find water and dense cover."

Mniotilta varia. Black and White Warbler.—Following a period of snow and cold, a specimen was picked up on December 10, 1951, in the yard of a resident on the east bench of Salt Lake City. This apparently constitutes the first record for the state. The species has been reported, however, as occurring casually in Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado.

Vermivora celata celata. Orange-crowned Warbler.—Two early fall migrants are a female taken September 3, 1949, at Arcadia, 5000 feet, 14 miles northeast of Duchesne, Duchesne County and a female taken at Lake Solitude, 9033 feet, near Silver Lake Post Office (Brighton), Salt Lake County, on September 4, 1945.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend's Warbler.—Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:29) indicated May 27 as the latest known date of occurrence of Townsend's Warbler in Utah in spring. We collected an adult female in the Deep Creek Mountains, head of Pass Creek, 8000 feet, 6 miles east of the Goshute Indian Village, Juab County, on June 7, 1950. This bird may have been an extremely late migrant, but the small size of the ovary suggests that it was a non-breeding individual which failed to complete its northward migration.

The same authors gave the known fall migration dates as August 10 to October 9. An immature female was taken at Alta, 9000 feet, head of Little Cottonwood Canyon, 15 miles east of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, on July 28, 1949. It was extremely fat.

Seiurus noveboracensis linnaeus and *S. n. notabilis*. Water-thrush.—The Water-thrush occurs as a casual migrant in Utah, eight specimens having thus far been reported, all as of the race *notabilis* (see Woodbury, 1939:161; Twomey, 1942:445; and Behle and Ross, 1945:169). A male specimen collected May 10, 1949, from a willow and rose streamside habitat at the entrance of Farmington Bay Refuge, 4300 feet, Davis County, was identified for us by A. H. Miller, on the basis of color, as of the race *linnaeus*. It is, however, somewhat atypical by reason of its large size (wing 77.4, tail 54.8, tarsus 21.5 mm.) An additional record of *notabilis* is a female taken May 15, 1949, along a stream three miles east of Benjamin, 4400 feet, Utah County. Selander saw a single Water-thrush in similar habitat near Snyderville, 6900 feet, Summit County, May 14, 1949.

Setophaga ruticilla tricolora. Northern Redstart.—This species has been considered as a rare breeder in northern Utah. Records were summarized by Ross (1944:129), and Twomey (1942:449) reported two fall records for the Uinta Basin. A probable breeding record for that region is a male adult which we obtained at Merkley Park, 6000 feet,

Ashley Creek, 10 miles north of Vernal, Uintah County, June 12, 1949. An immature female also was taken at Arcadia, 5000 feet, 14 miles northeast of Duchesne, Duchesne County, September 3, 1949. Several redstarts, presumably migrants, were observed on the north side of the Uinta Mountains on September 12, 1950, in streamside vegetation at Hideout Canyon, 5800 feet, along the Green River, Daggett County.

Icterus parisorum. Scott's Oriole.—An unpublished record of this rare species in Utah is of a female in first-year plumage which was shot by John Bushman, May 20, 1951, in a juniper-piñon pine association at the Ekker Ranch, 6000 feet, in the Robbers' Roost country, 25 miles east of Hanksville, Wayne County.

Guiraca caerulea interfusa. Western Blue Grosbeak.—Hitherto known only from southern Utah, a considerable northward extension of range in Utah is indicated by a male which was caught in a trap at the Upland Game Bird Refuge, 5200 feet, Vernal, Uinta County, in June, 1950. Remnants of the bird were saved as evidence. Seemingly, the species is not of accidental occurrence in the valley for another adult male was seen at Vernal on August 4, 1951.

Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi. Western Evening Grosbeak.—Although common in winter, especially during 1950-1951, summer records for Utah are few and are mostly sight records. Twomey (1942:459) collected three specimens on July 2 and 3, 1937, which he called *H. v. montana* without critical comment. An adult male was taken at Parley's Park, two miles south of Snyderville, Summit County, on August 6, 1949. It was perched in a cottonwood tree with another Evening Grosbeak, presumably the female. The male taken was in worn breeding plumage and its testes were 5 mm. long. On the basis of the large bill (depth 15.4 mm. and width at base 13.9 mm.) it is referable to the race *brooksi*.

Leucosticte atrata. Black Rosy Finch.—Probable breeding status of this finch in the Wasatch Mountains, as well as the Uinta Mountains, was established when we collected four examples (adult male, adult female, immature male, immature female) on the talus slopes of Devil's Castle Mountain, 10,000 feet, at Alta, head of Little Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County, August 4, 1949.

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting.—Known chiefly as a migrant, it has also been considered a probable breeder. Suggestive evidence of breeding status is afforded by an adult male, testes 15 mm. long, collected in a wet pasture at Murray, 4400 feet, Salt Lake County, June 11, 1950.

Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus. Western Grasshopper Sparrow.—In reporting that no recent records of this species are available from areas other than the Uinta Basin, Woodbury *et al.* (1949:33) overlooked a recent record from west of Salt Lake City by Behle and Ross (1945:169).

Pooecetes gramineus affinis. Oregon Vesper Sparrow.—This sparrow was reported previously as a casual migrant in Utah on the basis of two specimens from Garfield County. There are now two other records. One is of an immature female from the junction of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers, 2700 feet, two miles south of St. George, Washington County, taken September 11, 1941. The other is an immature of undetermined sex taken at Farmington Bay Refuge, 4300 feet, Davis County, September 1, 1949.

Zonotrichia querula. Harris's Sparrow.—Another record to add to the few for the state is of a female from two miles west of Mt. Pleasant, 6000 feet, Sanpete County, February 4, 1951.

Zonotrichia coronata. Golden-crowned Sparrow.—In reporting the available records of this species for the state, Woodbury, *et al.* (1949:35) overlooked the record from Standrod, Boxelder County, by Greenhalgh (1948:46).

LITERATURE CITED

ARVEY, M. DALE

1947 A check-list of the birds of Idaho. *Univ. Kans. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 1:193-216.

BEHLE, WILLIAM H.

1944 Check-list of the birds of Utah. *Condor*, 46:67-87.

BEHLE, WILLIAM H., AND AARON ROSS

1945 Miscellaneous records of birds uncommon in Utah. *Condor*, 47:168-170.

CONOVER, BOARDMAN

1944 The races of the solitary sandpiper. *Auk*, 61:537-544.

GREENHALGH, CLIFTON

1948 Second record of the golden-crowned sparrow in Utah. *Condor*, 50:46.

PITELKA, FRANK A.

1950 Geographic variation and the species problem in the shorebird genus *Limnodromus*. *Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*, 50:1-108.

RIDGWAY, ROBERT

1877 Ornithology, in "Ornithology and Paleontology," U. S. Geol. Expl. Fortieth Parallel, 4, Part 3, pp. 303-669.

1916 The birds of North and Middle America. *Bull. U. S. Natl. Mus.* No. 50, pt. 7.

ROSS, AARON

1944 The American Redstart in Utah. *Condor*, 46:129.

SAUNDERS, ARETAS A.

1921 A distributional list of the birds of Montana. *Pacific Coast Avifauna*, No. 14:1-194.

TWOMEY, ARTHUR C.

1942 The birds of the Uinta Basin, Utah. *Ann. Carnegie Mus.*, 28:341-490.

WOODBURY, ANGUS M.

1939 Bird records from Utah and Arizona. *Condor*, 41:157-163.

WOODBURY, ANGUS M., CLARENCE COTTAM, AND JOHN W. SUGDEN

1949 Annotated check-list of the birds of Utah. *Bull. Univ. Utah*, 39 (16):1-40.

WOODBURY, ANGUS M., AND HENRY N. RUSSELL, JR.

1945 Birds of the Navajo Country. *Bull. Univ. Utah*, 35 (14):1-160.

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, NOVEMBER 1, 1951